



City Administrator's Report

May 2009

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, May 19th and Tuesday, June 2nd. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street.

City Council Public Hearings on Recommended Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2010

All meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street:

Tuesday, May 26th, 6 p.m.

Monday, June 1st, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2nd, 9:30 a.m.

Community Events

6th Annual “Putting Kids First” Fundraiser

Friday, May 15th at 5:30 p.m. at a private Hope Ranch Estate. Hosted by the Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) and includes dinner, dancing, and silent auction. Tickets cost \$250. For more information, call the PAL office at 962-5560.

Harbor Nautical Swap Meet

Saturday, May 16th from 8 a.m. to noon at the Marina 3 Parking lot. Shop for boat, kayak, surfing gear, diving equipment, anchors and tackle, tools, and more.

50th Annual City Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 23rd to Monday, May 25th at the Santa Barbara Municipal Golf Course. For more information, visit: www.sbgolf.com.

Flags on State Street

Junior League

May 6th to 15th

Bike Week

May 15th to 22nd

Memorial Day

May 22nd to June 1st

Jesusita Fire Update

On Tuesday, May 5th at approximately 1:45 p.m., the Jesusita Fire started in the Cathedral Park area near the popular Jesusita hiking trail. As of Wednesday, May 13th, the fire has burned 8,733 acres and is 80% contained. To date, 77 homes have been destroyed, 22 homes damaged, 60 outbuildings destroyed, and 69 outbuildings damaged. The fire response is being administered by CAL Fire in coordination with Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Montecito Fire, and the U.S. Forest Service. To date, estimated costs to fight this fire total \$15.5 million. The fire is expected to be fully contained by May 20th.

City and County Fire Departments, along with the U.S. Forest Service are working together to fight this fire, in addition to other agencies from outside the City. More than 3,000 personnel are on scene; six air tankers including the DC-10 and thirteen helicopters have been assigned to the fire. Last week, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger came to Santa Barbara to declare the City in a state of emergency. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. For the latest information on acres burned, road closures, school closures, and evacuation centers, go to the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

A Jesusita Fire Community Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the La Cumbre Junior High School, 2255 Modoc Road. This is a community meeting for fire and law enforcement officials to provide the public with information about the fire and its status. Representatives will also be available from the Red Cross, Santa Barbara School Districts, utilities, and neighborhood associations to answer questions.

City Administrator's Office

City Releases Recommended Budget. In light of recent declines in sales tax and transient occupancy tax (TOT) revenue, the City of Santa Barbara now faces an estimated \$10.7 million funding shortfall in the Fiscal Year 2010 General Fund budget. This represents approximately 10% of the General Fund operating budget. The proposed budget strategy involves: 1) department budget adjustments; 2) increases in various fees and charges; 3) citywide labor measures such as a mandatory furlough; 4) structural budget changes; and 5) delays to capital improvements.

Each department budget is being presented with an overview of revenues, expenses, budget balancing strategy, service impacts, and proposed work plan for the upcoming year. The tentative schedule is listed below. All meetings will be held in the Council Chambers in City Hall. The City Council will adopt a budget by June 30, 2009.

The FY 2010 Recommended Budget, frequently asked questions, and videos of each of the departmental budget presentation are available at the City Clerk's Office and on the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Date	Time	Department Budget Presentations
Tuesday, May 26 th	6 to 9 p.m.	Fire Department Police Department

Monday, June 1 st	3 to 6 p.m.	Airport Department Waterfront Department Finance Department and Environmental Services Non-Departmental
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Watch Inside Santa Barbara. *Inside Santa Barbara* is the City's only news magazine show. This award-winning half-hour show covers important City issues, projects, and events. The May episode of *Inside Santa Barbara* covers the Social Host Ordinance, improving access to Cottage Hospital, Earth Day, and the Arts Symposium. City TV continues its series on City Advisory Groups by highlighting the Police and Fire Commission. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs on the following days and times: Mondays at 8 and 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 and 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m., and Sundays at 10:30 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* online at: www.citytv18.com/inside.htm.

Administrative Services Department

Semi-Annual Recruitment for Boards and Commissions. The City is currently conducting a semi-annual recruitment for the following Boards and Commissions:

Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals	Living Wage Advisory Committee
Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens	Lower Westside Center Advisory Committee
Community Development and Human Services Committee	Measure P Committee
Creeks Advisory Committee	Rental Housing Mediation Task Force
Fire & Police Pension Commission	Single Family Design Board
Franklin Center Advisory Committee	Transportation & Circulation Committee
Harbor Commission	Water Commission
Housing Authority Commission	Westside Center Advisory Committee

To be eligible for this recruitment, applications must be received in the City Clerk's Office by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 22nd. The City Council will conduct interviews on Tuesday, June 2nd at 4 p.m. (estimated time), on June 9th during the evening session which begins at 6 p.m., and on Tuesday, June 16th at 4 p.m. (estimated time). Applicants of the Franklin Center, Lower Westside Center and Westside Center Advisory Committees will also have the option to appear for an interview before the City Council Subcommittee on Wednesday, June 17th, at 7 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center, 1136 East Montecito Street. The list of vacancies, vacancy notices, and the application form are available at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov via the Boards and Commissions link.

Airport Department

March Passenger Traffic Drops. Airline passenger traffic at Santa Barbara Airport decreased in March 2009 as compared with the same month last year. This March, the Airport served 58,950 passengers, a decrease of 17.2% when compared to the March 2008 passenger traffic count of 71,193. Total passenger volume for the first quarter of 2009 is down 14% compared to 2008's first quarter. The highest average passenger loads in March were aboard

the United Express flights to Denver (85.9%) and San Francisco (80.6%), and Horizon Air flights to Seattle (77.6%).

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Activity Update. In May, the Planning Commission will meet May 21st. The Commission will hold an environmental hearing for the scoping of an Environmental Impact Report for 900 Calle de los Amigos (Valle Verde Retirement Community), hear a presentation from Casa Esperanza (816 Cacique Street), and make a decision on 618 San Pascual (Appeal of a Staff Hearing Officer approval of a modification for a four-unit condo project).

Finance Department

March Transient Occupancy Tax Down 24.1%. For the second month in a row, transient occupancy tax (TOT) was down more than 20% from the same month of the prior year. Two consecutive monthly declines of over 20% is unprecedented. There have been seven consecutive months of year-over-year decline with four of the last five months experiencing double-digit declines.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%
Aug	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%
Sept	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%
Oct	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%
Nov	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%	770,009	-11.6%
Dec	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%	599,323	-10.4%
Jan	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%	680,474	-1.6%
Feb	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%	643,342	-20.7%
Mar	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%	1,000,573	4.9%	759,867	-24.1%
April	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%	958,282	-8.5%		
May	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%	1,118,049	6.2%		
June	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%	1,262,909	1.0%		
FY Total	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 12,691,167	5.5%	\$ 12,935,553	1.9%	\$ 9,151,601	-4.6%
Budget	\$ 11,504,200		\$ 12,630,600		\$ 13,581,500		\$ 13,334,000	3.1%

Fire Department

City Fire Chief Retires and Interim Fire Chief Appointed. After 35 years of public service, City Fire Chief Ron Prince retired from his position on May 1st. A recruitment process will be conducted to attract talented individuals from across the nation for the fire chief position. Battalion Chief Andrew DiMizio is serving as the Interim Fire Chief until a permanent appointment is made. Chief DiMizio has been with the Department for 29 years, including eight years as a Battalion Chief.

Library Department

Hundreds Participate in Day of the Child/Day of the Book. The Santa Barbara Public Library System, in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Junior League, presented the first annual Dia de los Niños/Dia del Libro to promote reading and library use in our community. The event attracted more than 600 people. Community partners including the United Way Young Leaders Society, Santa Barbara Family Care Center, and Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic provided arts and crafts for children. A small grant from the California State Library and the generous support of *First Five of Santa Barbara County* provided over 450 brand new books that were given to attendees.

Blowout Book Sale. The Central Library celebrated National Library Week from April 12th through 18th) by holding a major clearance sale of excess books, videos, music CDs and other materials. The “Blowout Sale” promotion raised \$3,792.

The Big Read. The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded the Library System a *Big Read* grant of \$18,040 to fund the next *Santa Barbara Reads* program. In addition to the grant funds, the program received marketing materials, discussion and teacher guides. This year's fall *Santa Barbara Reads* community reading program will aim to involve junior high and high school youth in a variety of events related to the chosen book. The title was selected from a list of 27 titles in *The Big Read* program, and will be announced this summer.

Parks and Recreation Department

Volunteer Work Day at Sunflower Park. A volunteer work day is scheduled at Sunflower Park located at 1124 East Mason Street on Saturday, May 30th from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed for gardening and spring clean up of this neighborhood park. This location is one of the many locations designated by *Looking Good Santa Barbara* and the clean up efforts in the Eastside neighborhood.

A Rosy Recognition. On April 25th, the Santa Barbara Rose Society celebrated its 50th anniversary at the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden, located across the street from the Santa Barbara Mission. A special recognition was bestowed upon Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department Rose Garden Coordinator Robert Funai. The All-American Rose Society awarded Robert with a bronze medal, the highest level award, for his dedication and overall commitment coordinating rose garden volunteers at our City's accredited rose garden.

Park and Recreation Commission Volunteer Recognition. On Wednesday, April 22nd, the Park and Recreation Commission recognized the staff of the Santa Barbara County American Red Cross Safety and Preparedness Division (ARC) for their support of the Department's Aquatic Division. With ARC's support, the Aquatic section annually provides swimming lessons, vocational training in lifeguarding, swim instruction, and CPR and First Aid training to 300 Parks, Recreation, and Golf staff.

Register Now for 50th Annual City Golf Championship. Space is still available to sign up for the popular City Golf Championship at the Santa Barbara Golf Club on May 23rd to 25th. The \$200 entry fee includes three rounds of golf, prizes, gift bags, buffet, and range balls each

day. A golf cart is not included in the price. Find the registration form with all the details at: www.sbgolf.com.

Police Department

ABC Grant. In October 2008, the Santa Barbara Police Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to help curb underage drinking. The grant is administered by the Santa Barbara Police Department's Nightlife Enforcement Team. The City has approximately 529 establishments which currently have an active license to serve alcohol. Since October 2008, the Nightlife Enforcement Team has made approximately 156 arrests for alcohol related crimes. These crimes include public intoxication, D.U.I., possession of open containers, minor unlawfully in a bar, minor in possession of alcohol, minor using false identification, and selling/furnishing alcohol to a minor. Liquor establishments caught serving alcohol to minors face fines or suspension of their license. Minors caught drinking alcohol or using drugs face prosecution and enrollment in treatment programs.

Operation Gator Roll Team Recognized. The Santa Barbara Police Department was awarded the 2009 Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigation's "Investigative Excellence Award" for its Operation Gator Roll investigation. The award was presented on April 16th in San Francisco by the Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training. In January 2008, the Police Department Investigative Division began the investigation in response to the escalation of violence and prolific criminal activity attributed to the city's two largest criminal street gangs. The Investigative Division assumed a leadership role, joining two of its work units, Narcotics and Youth Services.

The objective of the operation was to identify and target any individuals associating and participating with the criminal activity of a local street gang. Under the leadership and organization of the Gator Roll Team, an outstanding working relationship was developed between state and federal agencies. This excellent relationship was exhibited during a major sweep on October 15, 2008. Four-hundred and fifty law enforcement officers representing multiple state and federal agencies combined to visit 71 locations in eight separate tri-county cities. The sweep, combined with the investigation, netted 227 arrests.

Putting Kids First. The Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) is holding their 6th Annual "Putting Kids First" fundraiser on Friday, May 15th. This event is PAL's main fund raiser supporting programs for over 1600 local youth each year. During these tough economic times, PAL is dedicated to keeping the same level of service for the youth of our community. This event includes dinner, silent auction, live auction, and dancing to DJ Bonnie. The event will be held on a private Hope Ranch estate owned by Geoff and Alison Rusack. For further information, please contact the PAL staff at 962-5560.

Public Works Department

Highway 101 Milpas/Hot Springs Project. The purpose of this project is to improve traffic congestion, ramp access, and safety on Highway 101 from Milpas Street to Hot Springs Road/Cabrillo Boulevard. The project will also improve local circulation for vehicles and provide

improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities. This project focuses on two miles of Highway 101 between Santa Barbara and Montecito.

Drivers should be aware of the closures taking place for this project. Crews have begun work on a new bridge barrier on southbound Highway 101 over Cabrillo Boulevard. One lane on southbound Highway 101 near Cabrillo Boulevard will be closed as needed. Cabrillo Boulevard will be closed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. under the southbound Highway 101 bridges, Monday through Thursday nights. Additionally, the southbound Highway 101 off-ramp at Hot Springs Road, the southbound Highway 101 on-ramp at Cabrillo Boulevard, and the northbound Highway 101 off-ramp at Cabrillo Boulevard will be closed as needed during this work. Flagmen will be on Cabrillo Boulevard to direct traffic to Milpas Street or Olive Mill Road as a detour during the temporary closures. At least one lane will remain open on southbound Highway 101 during the work. For updates on this project and road closures, visit: <http://www.sbroads.com/updates.htm>.

Waterfront Department

Harbor Nautical Swap. The annual Nautical Swap Meet will be held on Saturday, May 16th, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Marina 3 parking lot. This event features 75 vendor spaces, refreshments, and hidden treasures. The four-hour swap meet is a prime place to look for boat, kayak and surfing gear, diving equipment, anchors and tackle, tools, and more. The annual event is hosted by the Waterfront Department in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants Association. Admission to this event is free.

World Ocean Day Festival. The Ty Warner Sea Center will be doing its part to conserve ocean resources for future generations by participating in the World Ocean Day Festival which will be held on Saturday, June 6th. In support of this festival, the Sea Center will be hosting two ocean-related activities, an East Beach Cleanup from 10 to 11 a.m. and the World Ocean Day Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sea Center. Festival activities include learning more about what people can do to help protect the ocean, ocean inspired crafts, and experiencing hands-on science fun.

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum Store. The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum store reopened for business in September 2008. All proceeds from the gift store help support the Maritime Museum's educational and curatorial programs. Since its reopening, customers from around the world, as well as Santa Barbara locals have enjoyed its large selection of nautical gifts, maritime-related book titles, and unique items including signal flag pillows, boat models, and pirate paraphernalia. For more museum information and updates visit: www.SBMM.org.